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MOTIVES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSE TRAINING SCHOOLS

DEAR EDITOR: In your issue of May, 1915, page 643, it is said "Training schools were first organized in order that a hospital might secure the services of young women to care for the sick, at a minimum cost for a fixed period." That this is unfair is shown by the act of incorporation of the New England Hospital for Women and Children, in Boston, adopted June 5, 1863, which states as the three objects of the institution: 1. To provide for women medical aid of competent physicians of their own sex. 2. To assist educated women in the practical study of medicine, and 3. To train nurses for the care of the sick. Very soon this training was begun, and the first training school in the United States was started on an educational, not a financial, basis.

HELEN F. KIMBALL,
*President of New England Hospital
for Women and Children.*

Brookline, Mass.

[This bit of nursing history is interesting at this time showing that the women who were back of the establishment of the first training school in this country were not acting from commercial motives. The New England Hospital school was the first to be established in the United States for which it has not always received the credit to which it was entitled as a leader in the great pioneer movement.—Ed.]

A LAST COMMUNICATION FROM MISS DAMER

[Shortly before her death, Miss Damer sent the following, thinking the JOURNAL readers would be interested in a personal letter written to her by a nurse on duty in France.—Ed.]

"You, like others, will wonder why I do not write. Well, I find it pretty hard work. At night we are not allowed lights and just get time to rush to bed. Through the days we are busy and seldom get any spare time. I have to relieve for dinner, relieve for time and take my time and the day goes very quickly. We just have the — unit in, they are making considerable extra work. Dr. Crile's people were very nice and never made any work. They used oxygen and gas for all operations. This is given from a special tank and is the invention of Dr. Crile. There is no pain felt either during or after the operation and no nausea or ill effects. The patient could usually eat his meals or have a smoke, and we never realized how much we were missing until Dr. Crile left, and we went back to ether with all its pain and after effects. I have a ward of nine beds and have now seven patients, have a young girl to help, also an orderly if needed, but I would much rather be alone and do all my work. I was taken off and sent to another ward but the patients put in a written request for me to stay so I finally got back. The men are very nice, no trouble, seldom complain, do anything in the way of helping and are very nice to nurse. I hope to stay as long as needed. So far I keep well, but the climate has been very hard on me. We nearly all suffer from colds and in some cases they are quite serious."

New York.

S. D.